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Elegy

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ELEGY

The sidewalk's gray bones
bloom in your eyes
and you've gone almost blind
with the feel of your own footsteps,
listening for the echo gaining behind you.
The trouble is you think
someone cares where you go,
someone with a razor,
someone with a .38 caliber
police special assembled from
spare parts ordered
out of a comic book.

And the trouble is you're right.
He stops you with a swear.
He wants your wallet,
your car, to make a trade
for your life.
And he wants more,
he wants the gold
that swims in your initials.
And when you tell him, "hey
motherfucker you can't have nothin',"
his arm flies out at you
and a smear of sparks
blasts from his hand.

And then all you hear
is the smoke whirring
through your temple,
and the dim slide of voices
hoisting you onto shoulders
and floating you into
the white mouth of an ambulance,
into the emergency room
where you give the world
its silence back.



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